(b) and (c) The upgraded aircraft will have advanced avionics and improved weapon delivery systems. There was delay in prototype development, which has since been completed. The deliveries of series upgraded aircraft are expected to commence from 2001-2002, and be completed in about 4-5 years time.

Acquisition of sophisticated artillery guns

512 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plans to acquire more sophisticated artillery guns than Bofors 155 mm guns; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Various proposals to acquire a state-of-the-art 155 mm Artillery gun, are at present under consideration. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Operation "Poorna Vijay'

513. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of operation "Poorna Vijay" a full-fledged military exercise was conducted by the Indian Army in co-ordination with the Indian Airforce in the border States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir during the month of May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the objectives for which the military exercise was conducted have since been achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. The exercise was conducted in the Western sector including the border States of the region.

(b) A number of Army formations and the Indian Air Force took part in the exercise.